



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Li *et al.*

Appl. No.: 09/266,935

Filed: March 12, 1999

For: **Compositions and Methods for
Enhanced Synthesis of Nucleic Acid
Molecules**

Confirmation No.: 6420

Art Unit: 1637

Examiner: Riley, J.

Atty. Docket: 0942.4560001/RWE/BJD/JKM

Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1)

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

It is hereby requested that the period for replying to the outstanding Office Action be extended two months from January 21, 2004 to March 21, 2004 by the filing of this Petition and fee payment.

The petition fee (37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)) is believed to be \$420.00 for a two month extension for a large entity. Fee payment is provided in our accompanying PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form. However, if extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 other than those provided herewith are required to prevent abandonment of the present patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

03/23/2004 CNGUYEN 00000108 09266935

02 FC:1252

420.00 OP

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Robert W. Esmond
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 32,893

Date: March 22, 2004

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600